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Afghanistan Situation Report

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° 26 March 1985

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AIR VIOLATIONS DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1985

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Aircraft from Afghanistan bombed Pakistani territory

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All these attacks occurred within
several kilometers of the Afghan-Pakistani border
across from Konarha and Paktia Provinces.

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Comment: The bombings and overflights probably reflect
support for the larger-than-usual Soviet and Afghan
regime winter campaign along the eastern border of
Afghanistan.

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PERSPECTIVE**THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE AND THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD**
by an Academic Consultant

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The Afghan resistance fundamentalist alliance* is closely linked to the Muslim Brotherhood, the international Islamic fundamentalist movement, sometimes called the Ikhwan. The international movement, whose goal is the installation of Islamic governments in all countries in the Middle East region including Afghanistan, has followers in most Muslim countries and in Europe and the United States. Radical elements of the movement, which was founded by a young Egyptian school teacher at Al-Azhar University in Cairo in 1928, were influential in the overthrow of Egyptian King Farouk and the assassination of President Sadat.

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The Muslim Brotherhood appeals to young, educated Muslims who have little sympathy with socialism, Marxism, or capitalism, yet find the views and values of the traditional Islamic clergy out of date. As a consequence, in the Arab world, the Brotherhood often finds itself at odds with established Islam and the orthodox clergy. Nonetheless, it has generally had the support of the governments of the Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE.

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Strong beliefs in the Prophet Mohammed, the Koran, and the Sunna, and a strong opposition to corrupt governments and Eastern or Western imperialism are at the heart of the Brotherhood and other fundamentalist groups. Members are generally militant and highly committed to their principles, although the degree of extremism varies from country to country.

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The Afghan Fundamentalists and the Muslim Brotherhood

The Afghan fundamentalist movement has its modern roots at Kabul University, where many of its followers were

* The fundamentalist alliance consists of the Gulbuddin and Yunus Khalis factions of Hizbi Islami, the Jamiat-i-Islami, and the Harakat-i-Inqilab-i-Islami groups, based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

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faculty or students. The religiously-oriented students and faculty began to organize largely in reaction to the activities of the Marxist groups that dominated the University in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Many of the students came from the Department of Engineering--Hizbi leader Gulbuddin was an engineering student--much of the faculty leadership came from the Department of Theology (Shariat). The religious students quickly began to develop connections with resurgent Muslim movements in other countries--connections that continue today. [REDACTED]

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Most of the departments at Kabul University began with financial and technical assistance from Muslim countries, particularly Egypt. The Department of Shariat was aided by Al-Azhar University in Cairo. Students from Kabul at Al-Azhar returned to Kabul University as faculty, and Egyptian professors came to Kabul University to teach. Several Afghan fundamentalist leaders, including Sayyaf and Rabbani, studied at Al-Azhar, as did Moiadedi, one of the moderate leaders. [REDACTED]

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The Afghan fundamentalists now receive considerable financial assistance from the Gulf states, in part because of the Egyptian connection. The movement was spread to the Gulf by Egyptian and Sudanese members who held important educational, military, and administrative posts in many of the Gulf states. [REDACTED]

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The Afghan students also had connections with Persian fundamentalists at Qom, Iran. Many of the works of fundamentalist thinkers were translated at Qom from Arabic into Persian, a language that most educated Afghans can read. Although the Afghan fundamentalists come from the Sunni tradition, and therefore do not agree with the Shiite ideology of Iran, the fundamentalists have maintained ties to Tehran and may receive Iranian assistance. Gulbuddin, the most powerful of the present fundamentalist leaders, emerged from a student organization with ties to Iran and has traveled there. [REDACTED]

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The Jamiat

Another important Afghan foreign connection is with the religious parties of Pakistan, especially the Jamiat-i-Islami, which has close ties to the Arab Muslim

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[REDACTED]

Brotherhood. The Jamiat is currently in the good graces of the Zia government; its leader, Mian Tufail Mohammed, is a relative of Zia. Through the party's association with the international Brotherhood it serves as a conduit for the distribution of money and arms for Afghan insurgent groups. Jamiat connections with the Pakistan government allow the party to impede efforts by moderate leaders seeking to travel to Saudi Arabia and Egypt to raise money, while smoothing the way for fundamentalist leaders to do so. [REDACTED]

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Jamiat-i-Islami and the groups in other countries influence the flow of arms to the Afghan guerrilla organizations, and may also influence day-to-day operations of the insurgents. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] they have:

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- Provided political advice to the fundamentalists. Several members of non-Afghan fundamentalist groups advise the executive council of the fundamentalist alliance in Peshawar. These include Mian Tufail Mohammad, leader of Pakistan's Jamiat-i-Islami, Abdullah al-Mutabai of Kuwait, and Abdur Rahman al-Judar of Bahrain.

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- [REDACTED]
- Publicized the Afghan fundamentalist cause in the Arab world, making it easier for the fundamentalists to get funds there. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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